



# GROWTH GROUP

## The Christian's Struggle

Week of 7/19/2020

### Getting Started

Have you ever read Jekyll and Hyde? Or have you seen any of the movies or the Broadway show? Or you can talk about your favorite horror stories just to get conversation going.

### Into the Word

Read **Matthew 11:25-30**.

True or False: We make the choice to enter into a relationship with God. **False.** By nature, we are enemies of God and objects of his wrath. (See Ephesians 2:3.) God is the one who wins us over to friendship with his wonderful promises. He's the one who makes us alive with Christ. (See Ephesians 2:5.) Our relationship with God depends on his good pleasure. How do you strike up friendships or relationships with other people? Most people attempt to find something that they have in common with another person, and they try to develop a friendship based on those common interests. But how do we strike up a relationship with God? We don't. Our relationship with God depends on his good pleasure. God is "out of our league" and really shouldn't have anything to do with us. But miraculously he does! Amazingly he loves us and cares for us. He desires to be our dearest friend! But he always makes "the first move" through the gospel.

To whom does God choose to reveal the truths of the gospel? Jesus says that God reveals the truths of the gospel, not to the "wise and learned," but to "little children." In other words, to those who do not persistently reject the working of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. God is the one who wins us to faith. We have no power to choose God as our friend; it's all God's doing (Luther's Small Catechism, Explanation to the Third Article of the Creed).

What is Jesus saying to the Christian who is struggling? "Everything that needs to be done has already been done. Come to me, you weary from struggling, and find rest in that promise."

Read **Romans 7:15-25**.

What struggle does Paul outline in these verses? The struggle that every Christian has between the sinful flesh and the new person, who is guided by the Holy Spirit. Only the Christian has this struggle.

How are we able to overcome our sinful nature? We aren't able to overcome the sinful flesh by ourselves. We must rely upon the working of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. This is our Christian life of sanctification. God gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ!

### Apply

How do you define a good person? Definitions will vary. Hopefully no one's definition is "someone who avoids doing bad things."

How do you define an evil person? Answers will vary. Hopefully definitions include some mention of knowledge.

What are some good things you have a desire to do? Brainstorm together some good things that you can do, and then help hold each other accountable in future weeks.

What is the most important thing to keep in mind as you struggle? **You have already been delivered from the struggle. Thanks be to God. Paul goes on and on describing the struggle. And then in one sentence says, "That's be to God. Good thing we're already rescued."**

### **Around the Room**

Share your highs and lows for the week.

### **Pray**